1990 and 1992 has been reduced from 88 per cent to 65 per cent, if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to step up its business ; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken against the officers who are responsible for the decline in business ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The average capacity utilisation of Central Warehousing Corporation during 1990-91 was about 78 per cent and during the first eleven months of 1991-92, it was about 74 per cent. This reduction in average capacity utilisation was mainly due to the decline in receipts of bonded cargo in Warehouses, lesser food-grains storage due to lower procurement, lesser availability of Jute and Fertiliser stocks for storage etc.

(b) The Corporation has taken steps to diversity its business into newer areas. It has started providing storage facilities for Tendu Pattas in Madhya Pradesh and it has also been appointed as an agent of the Food Corporation of India for procurement of foodgrains in places where it has adequate storage facilities. The Corporation is also planning to have long term arrangements with certain Public and Private Sector Undertakings for storage of their products. Fertiliser companies and other Public Sector companies are also being approached for increased storage of their commodities in the warehouses of the Corporation.

(c) In view of replies given to parts (a) and (b), no action is contemplated against any officer.

Stitching of bags for wheat and rice

1408. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to machine stitch 100 per cent bags for packing of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what is the incentive for machine stitching of wheat bags for this year and the estimated number of bags which could be machine stitched with this incentive ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b) In view of the vast magnitude of price support operation, involving about 8000 purchase centres (run by FCI and State Procuring Agencies) for procurement of wheat, and 18768 rice mills (as on 1-1-1986) from whom levy rice is collected and also in view of practical difficulties, it is not possible to ensure 100% machine stitching of foodgrain bags in one go. However, attempts are being made to persuade the rice millers to deliver levy rice to FCI in double line machine stitched B-Twill gunny bags.

(c) The maximum ceiling rate to be given as an incentive for double line machine stitching of wheat bags has been raised from 70 paise per bag to 95 paise per bag with effect from 1-4-1992. It is not possible to estimate the number of bags which would be machine stitched with this incentive.

Food Corporation of India

1409. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what was the annual turnover if the Food Corporation of India during the last three years, yearwise ;

(b) what was the annual profit or loss to the Corporation zone-wise, and what are the details of the transit and store losses during the above period ;

(c) whether it is a fact that thousands of tonnes of foodgrains is stolen by the transporters in connivance with the officer during transit from the railway stations to the warehouses at Patna, Purnea and Ranchi ;

(d) what are the details of transport contractors of the Patna region working with the Corporation ; and